

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus create a bundle of soft permanent virtual circuits (SPVCs) coupling form a source end to a destination end via a communications network. The SPVC bundle includes a plurality of member SPVCs, each member SPVC including a permanent virtual circuit (PVC) and a switched virtual circuit (SVC). The SPVC bundle creation includes (a) creating the SPVC bundle for the source end, each of the member SPVCs being associated with a respective connection characteristic and coupling to the same destination, and (b) transmitting, from the source end to the destination end, an SPVC setup message containing configuration information of the SPVC bundle. The SPVC bundle creation may further includes automatically creating, at the destination end, in response to the SPVC setup message, the SPVC bundle for the destination end in accordance with the configuration information.